



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

***Raised Bill No. 5133***

LCO No. 1473

\*01473\_\_\_\_\_KID\*

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Children

Introduced by:  
(KID)

***AN ACT CONCERNING YOUTH POLICY AND CONTINUATION OF THE  
YOUTH FUTURES COMMITTEE FUNCTION.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than July 1, 2008, the  
2       Office of Workforce Competitiveness, in consultation with the  
3       Connecticut Employment and Training Commission, shall convene a  
4       Youth Policy Council to continue the work of the former Youth  
5       Futures Committee, established by public act 06-182, and provide for  
6       implementation of the recommendations in the report of said Youth  
7       Futures Committee. The overall mission of the Youth Policy Council  
8       shall be to support positive youth development for all Connecticut  
9       youth between the ages of twelve and twenty-one, and to assist such  
10      youth in entering the state's workforce.

11      (b) The Youth Policy Council shall consist of the following: (1) Six  
12      members of the General Assembly, one each appointed by the speaker  
13      of the House of Representatives, the president pro tempore of the  
14      Senate, the majority leader of the House of Representatives, the  
15      majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the House of  
16      Representatives, and the minority leader of the Senate; (2) the

17 Governor or the Governor's designee; (3) the Commissioners of  
18 Education, Higher Education, Children and Families, Public Health,  
19 Social Services, and Mental Health and Addiction Services and the  
20 Labor Commissioner or said commissioners' designees; (4) the  
21 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management or the secretary's  
22 designee; (5) the director of the Office of Workforce Competitiveness  
23 or the director's designee; (6) the executive director of the Commission  
24 on Children or the executive director's designee; (7) the executive  
25 director of the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch  
26 or the executive director's designee; and (8) a representative from the  
27 Connecticut Youth Services Association designated by the president of  
28 the association.

29 (c) The Youth Policy Council shall: (1) (A) Receive information from  
30 other entities involved in services for children and youth, including,  
31 but not limited to, the Youth Vision Team, the Connecticut  
32 Employment and Training Commission Youth Committee, the Early  
33 Childhood Education Cabinet, the Governor's Early Childhood  
34 Research and Policy Council, the Child Poverty and Prevention  
35 Council and the Commission on Children; and (B) share information  
36 with other entities serving youth to improve communication and  
37 collaboration to better meet the needs of youth; (2) improve  
38 coordination, through the results-based accountability process, with  
39 other state-wide entities that focus on youth services; (3) conduct  
40 policy-relevant research and analysis through partnerships and  
41 subcontracts; (4) collect, organize, analyze and publish data, with  
42 contracted help on database issues and other data-related work; (5)  
43 develop guidelines for the delivery of youth services based on  
44 appropriate outcomes consistent with positive youth development; (6)  
45 make policy recommendations to the General Assembly and the  
46 Governor; (7) work with appropriate state agencies and local service  
47 providers at the community level, beginning with one or more pilot  
48 projects in selected regions, to develop community-based strategic  
49 plans for the delivery of community-level services that advance  
50 positive youth development. Such plans shall include an assessment of

51 the existing levels of: (A) Funding resources; (B) youth service delivery  
52 capacity; and (C) local planning and implementation capacity; (8)  
53 recommend changes to existing state policies and procedures to  
54 facilitate local implementation of pilot programs aimed at the council's  
55 target population pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, and to  
56 establish a framework for such implementation with clear guidelines  
57 that are flexible but have specific objectives; (9) leverage financial  
58 support and coinvestment for planning and piloting local efforts; (10)  
59 (A) issue reports on participation and outcomes for such target  
60 population, (B) build capacity for public reporting and analysis, and  
61 (C) measure progress toward attainment of positive youth outcomes;  
62 and (11) facilitate systems development across state and local entities,  
63 including memoranda of agreement, joint requests for proposals,  
64 common core data sets, case management agreements across agencies  
65 and blended funding demonstrations.

66 (d) For purposes of this subsection, positive youth outcomes  
67 include, but are not limited to, (1) improved school attendance, (2)  
68 improved academic and technical proficiencies, (3) improvement in the  
69 percentage of youth obtaining a high school diploma or its equivalent,  
70 (4) increases in the percentage of youth who enroll in and complete  
71 postsecondary school educational and training programs, (5)  
72 enrollment in employment programs that build skills, (6) full  
73 employment for youth not enrolled in educational programs, (7)  
74 opportunities to be engaged in public service, (8) stable and safe  
75 housing, (9) access to quality mental and physical health providers,  
76 and (10) opportunities to develop leadership and mentoring skills.

77 (e) On or before January 1, 2010, the Office of Workforce  
78 Competitiveness shall report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the  
79 general statutes, to the Governor and the General Assembly on (1) the  
80 progress made in achieving positive outcomes for youth and the total  
81 state expenditures dedicated to achieving such positive outcomes, and  
82 (2) policy recommendations and future funding needs.

83       Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) The Youth Policy Council  
 84       established pursuant to section 1 of this act shall, within available  
 85       appropriations and funds received pursuant to subsection (b) of this  
 86       section: (1) Coordinate the mapping and analysis of resources and  
 87       youth services as pilot programs in one or more local communities; (2)  
 88       collect data on the services available to youth served by selected local  
 89       providers and related state agencies, and improve collaboration and  
 90       accountability among such providers and agencies, including  
 91       collaboration on contracting for services and a focus on data and  
 92       outcomes compatible with the results-based accountability principles;  
 93       (3) coordinate local data collection with the council's data collection  
 94       and management efforts; (4) focus pilot programs on the facilitation of  
 95       public-private partnerships between state agencies and local service  
 96       providers using blended funding and collaboration among state  
 97       agencies, local service providers and local workforce investment  
 98       boards; and (5) use pilot programs to test ideas through  
 99       implementation, address problems and replicate programs more  
 100       broadly as program operation proves successful and linkages are  
 101       formed and strengthened at the local level. Collaboration at the local  
 102       community level may include community colleges, youth service  
 103       bureaus and philanthropic organizations, as well as local service  
 104       providers and state agencies. For purposes of this subsection,  
 105       collaboration includes memoranda of agreement to develop shared or  
 106       common requests for proposals and common core data sets that can  
 107       lead to achievement of outcomes compatible with results-based  
 108       accountability principles.

109       (b) The Office of Workforce Competitiveness may solicit and receive  
 110       matching funds from philanthropic organizations. The council shall  
 111       use such funds for purposes of this section.

112       Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) The sum of five hundred thousand  
 113       dollars is appropriated to the Office of Workforce Competitiveness,  
 114       from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, for the  
 115       Youth Policy Council for the purposes of section 2 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section

***Statement of Purpose:***

To continue the function of the Youth Futures Committee by establishing the Youth Policy Council.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*